



26 September 2017

Honorable Andrew Cuomo
Governor
Executive Chamber
New York State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Subject: Letter of Support for S6750/A387B- Relates to disposal sites operated by pharmacies

Dear Governor Cuomo,

We are writing to urge your support for S6750/A387B (Hannon), which relates to prescription drug disposal sites operated by pharmacies. This bill, which outlines proper pharmaceutical disposal for chain pharmacies, will provide vital protection for New York State's drinking water supply and is critical in preventing these contaminants from entering a waste stream that is not equipped to remove them.

Discarded pharmaceuticals and the resulting emerging contaminants of concern pose a particularly difficult problem to water resource recovery utilities, and drinking water utilities, which were not designed to remove them, and especially small and rural communities that generally lack the resources to monitor and have the funds for equipment upgrades needed for removal. Therefore, it is critically important that we protect the state's vital drinking water supply from these emerging contaminants of concern by preventing them from entering the water/wastewater stream in the first place.

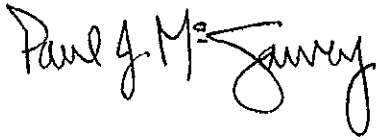
As of mid-2016, 38 states and Guam have implemented pharmaceutical disposal programs. It is time for New York State, who traditionally has taken pride in leading the way on environmental issues such as this, to join these states in protecting the health and environment of its residents and wildlife. Pharmaceutical drugs, when not disposed of properly, contaminate groundwater and surface water supplies with chemicals that, alone and compounded, can threaten human health. New York State already requires certain businesses that sell items such as tires and plastic bottles, to accept returns of these products. It is only logical that pharmacies are required to do the same.

New York State can make it easier for individuals to safely recycle their unused and/or expired drugs by adding more easily accessible drop-off locations that are open year round. This would act as a deterrent to choosing alternative and unsafe methods currently more readily available.

For the above reasons, the over 7,000 members of the New York Water Environment Association, the New York Rural Water Association, and the New York Section American Water Works Association urge you to sign S6750/A387B (Hannon) - as it relates to disposal sites operated by pharmacies.

We thank you for your service, time, and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul J. McGarvey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" and "G".

Paul J. McGarvey, P.E.
President
New York Water Environment Association

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John O'Connell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "O" and "C".

John O'Connell
President
New York Rural Water Association

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher Wheland". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "C" and "W".

Christopher Wheland
Chair
New York Section American Water Works Association